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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
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Agenda item 11

OTHER MATTERS

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:
draft decision

Preparation of analytical reports by the Commission on
Science and Technology for Development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

The Economic and Social Council decides that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development will adopt, within existing resources, the procedures for preparing analytical reports contained in the annex to the present decision.

Annex

TASKS OF THE COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND PREPARATION OF ANALYTICAL REPORTS BY THE COMMISSION

1. The tasks of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development include, inter alia:

(a) Assisting the Economic and Social Council in providing science and technology policy guidelines and recommendations to member States, in particular developing countries;

(b) Providing innovative approaches to improving the quality of coordination and cooperation in the area of science and technology within the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring optimum mobilization of resources;

(c) Supporting, within the mandate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development.

2. In order to fulfil its tasks, the Commission's work should include the preparation of reports on a limited number of substantive topics. In preparing those reports the Commission should adopt the following procedures:

(a) The substantive themes for each session of the Commission should be determined by the Commission at its previous session, taking into account the agenda of the General Assembly and other agreed criteria. The Secretary-General will be invited to suggest possible themes after consultations with relevant agencies of the United Nations system;

(b) For each theme chosen, the Commission will establish a panel of its own members having responsibility for preparing a draft report for consideration by the Commission as a whole at its next session. In addition, other experts may be involved in the preparatory process. The panels will appoint their own chairman and rapporteur and determine their method of work. They will be assisted by the Commission secretariat. A lead agency of the United Nations system may be invited to work with the panel in identifying the activities relevant to the theme within the United Nations system;

(c) Once adopted by the Commission, the substantive theme reports will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council as representing a major output from a particular session of the Commission, and will also be given wider distribution throughout the development community;

(d) In order for the Commission to evaluate the reports effectively at its plenary meetings, its consideration of those reports will occur in two stages. The first stage will be devoted primarily to technical discussion of the draft chapters and selection of substantive themes for the next session of the Commission. The second stage will be devoted, as necessary, to intergovernmental negotiations concerning draft recommendations and resolutions. The total duration of a given session of the Commission will be kept as short as possible and comprise no more than seven working days.

3. These methods of work will be implemented within existing resources available for science and technology [within the United Nations system]. To supplement those resources, member States and relevant organizations are encouraged to provide voluntary contributions.